

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 R

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R 260032Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020769

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: PRESS LEAKS AND THE PROXIMITY TALKS

1. DURING INTRODUCTORY CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MAYNES BY NEW BRITISH DCM JOHN ROBINSON, MAYNES RAISED
THE ISSUE OF PRESS LEAKS IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL
DISCUSSION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONTACT GROUP.

2. MAYNES REFERRED TO THE COMMENTS ON NAMIBIA
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ATTRIBUTED TO UK FCO OFFICIALS IN THE JANUARY 23 NEW
YORK TIMES ARTICLE. HE NOTED THAT SUCH PRESS LEAKS
TEND TO MAKE THE SWAPO TALKS MORE DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY
IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE TALKS
DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE ABILITY OF THE FIVE TO
PUT PRESSURE ON BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA. IT WAS
EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESS REPORTS WERE ACCURATE

TO A POINT, TAKEN AS A WHOLE THEY WOULD HELP CONFIRM
SWAPO'S SUSPICION OF THE CONTACT GROUP AND COULD
ADVERSELY INFLUENCE THEIR APPROACH TO THE TALKS.

3. ROBINSON AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS A SERIOUS ONE,
BUT STATED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE SOURCE OF THE APPLE ARTICLE. HE CONCURRED THAT

WERE SUCH LEAKS TO CONTINUE THEY COULD SERIOUSLY
DAMAGE THE PROXIMITY TALKS.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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